



# BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## COLONEL KEITH E. GENTILE



Colonel Keith E. "Spike" Gentile is the commander of the 18th Air Support Operations Group, Air Combat Command, Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The group organizes, trains, equips and employs tactical air control parties worldwide. The group has approximately 850 active duty and civilian professionals at 17 geographically separated units throughout the eastern United States and deployed around the world.

Colonel Gentile graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics/computer science from The Citadel and received his commission in 1981. He is a command pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours in the U-2/TR-1, T-38, FB-111, T-37 and KC-135A/R aircraft, including 110 hours of combat time. He has commanded expeditionary squadrons and groups deployed in Operation Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a Master Parachutist and a Combat Diver.

### EDUCATION:

1981 Bachelor of Arts, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.  
1985 Squadron Officer School, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
1987 KC-135A Combat Crew Training School (Distinguished Graduate), Castle Air Force Base, Calif.  
1989 SAC Instrument Flight Course – Castle Air Force Base, Calif.  
1992 Joint Employment Tactics School, Ellsworth Air Force Base, N.D.  
1996 U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Ga.  
1996 U.S. Air Force Air Ground Operations School, Distinguished Graduate, Hurlburt Air Force Base, Fla.  
1996 U.S. Naval Diving Training Center, Panama City, Fla.  
1996 Master of science in military studies, Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va.  
2003 Master of science in strategic studies, Academic Distinction, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. October 1981 – May 1983, undergraduate pilot training, Reese Air Force Base, Texas.
2. May 1983 – September 1987, KC-135A/R aircraft commander, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.
3. September 1987 – April 1988, FB-111A combat crew training school, Plattsburgh Air Force Base, N.Y.
4. April 1988 – August 1990, FB-111A aircraft commander, Pease Air Force Base, N.H.
5. August 1990 – November 1993, U-2 and T-38 instructor/evaluator pilot, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
6. December 1993 – June 1995, chief, U-2 Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
7. June 1995 – June 1996, student, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.
8. June 1996 – August 1998, commander, Operating Location Alpha, 17th Air Support Operations Squadron, Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.
9. August 1998 – February 2000, operations officer, 99th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
10. February 2000 – August 2001, commander, 99th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
11. August 2001- July 2002, deputy commander, 9th Operations Group, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
12. July 2002 – June 2003, student, Air War Collage, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
13. June 2003 - present, commander, 18th Air Support Operations Group, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Airman's Medal for Heroism  
Bronze Star Medal  
Air Medal  
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Army Meritorious Service Medal  
Humanitarian Service Medal  
Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant	May 16, 1981
First Lieutenant	Jul 23, 1983
Captain	Jul 23, 1985
Major	Dec 1, 1993
Lieutenant Colonel	May 1, 1998
Colonel	Jul 1, 2003

(Current as of December 2004)